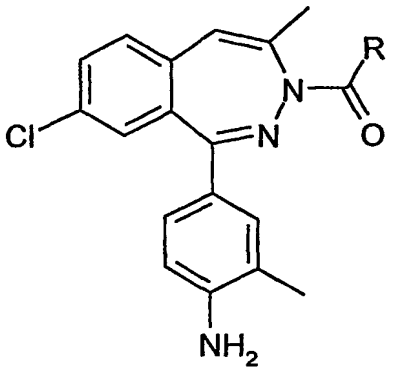
What we claim is:

1. 8-Chloro-2,3-benzodiazepine derivatives of the general formula (I),



(I)

wherein

R stands for a lower alkyl group or a group of the general formula -NH-R^1, wherein

R^1 stands for a lower alkyl or a lower cycloalkyl group), and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

2. Compounds of the general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein R stands for 1-4 alkyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

3. Compounds of the general formula (I) as claimed in claim 2, wherein R stands for methyl or ethyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

4. Compounds of the general formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein R stands for a group of the formula -NH-R^1, and R^1 stands for a C_{1-4} alkyl or a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

5. Compounds of the general formula (I) as claimed in claim 4, wherein R^1 stands for a methyl or a cyclopropyl group, and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

6. The following compounds according to any of the claims 1 to 5:

1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-4-methyl-3H-2,3-benzodiazepine 3-carboxylic acid methyl amide;
1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-4-methyl-3H-2,3-benzodiazepine-3-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl amide;
3-acetyl-1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-4-methyl-3H-2,3-benzodiazepine,
3-propionyl-1-(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)-8-chloro-4-methyl-3H-2,3-benzodiazepine,
and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

7. A process for the preparation of compounds of the general formula (I),

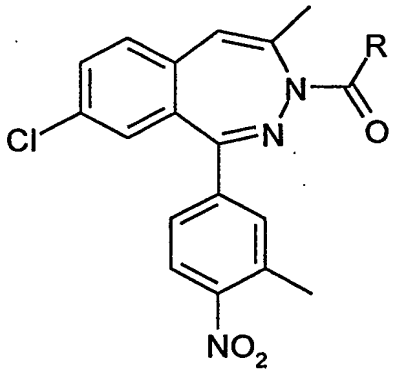
wherein

R stands for a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a group of the formula -NH-R^1, wherein

R^1 stands for a C_{1-6} alkyl or a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl group,

and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof, which comprises

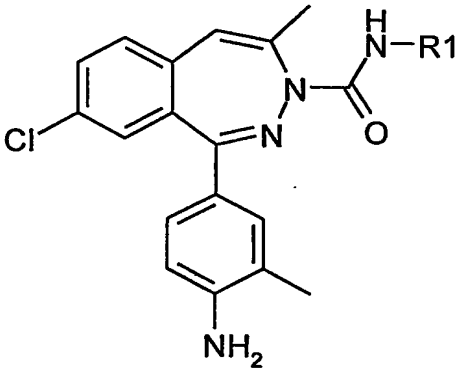
a) reducing a compound of the general formula (II),



(II)

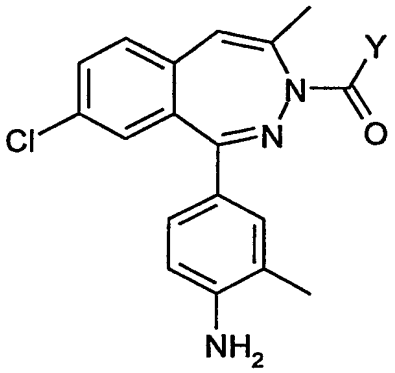
wherein R is as stated above; or

b) for the preparation of the compounds of general formula (I) containing in the place of R a group of the general formula -NH-R^1, wherein R^1 is as stated above, (that is the compounds of general formula (III),



(III)

wherein R^1 is as stated above), reacting a compound of the general formula (IV),



(IV)

wherein Y stands for a lower alkyl group or a leaving group, with an amine of the general formula (V),

$H_2N—R1$ (V)

wherein R^1 is as stated above,

and, if desired, converting the compound of the general formula (I) thus obtained into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a compound of the general formula (I) (wherein R is as stated in claim 1) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof in admixture with inert solid or liquid carriers and/or auxiliary agents and, if desired, further pharmaceutical ingredients.

9. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, which comprises admixing a compound of the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof with inert solid or liquid pharmaceutical carriers and/or auxiliary agents and, if desired, with further pharmaceutical ingredients, and bringing the mixture to galenic form.

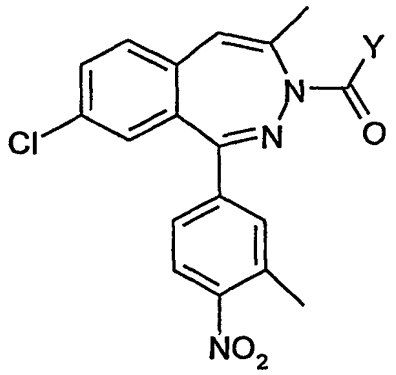
10. Use of the compounds of general formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof as pharmaceutical ingredients.

11. A process for the treatment of central nervous system disorders by the administration of compounds possessing

AMPA/kainate receptor inhibiting activity, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. Compounds of the general formula (II), wherein R is as stated in claim 1.

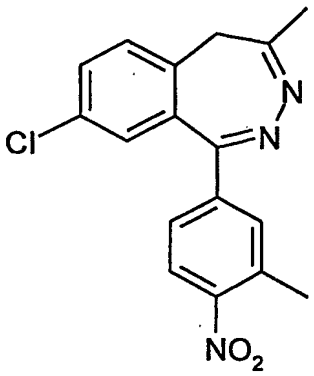
13. Compounds of the general formula (VIII),



(VIII)

wherein Y stands for a leaving group).

14. A process for the preparation of compounds of the general formula (II) according to claim 12, wherein R is as stated in claim 12, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula (VII),



(VII)

with a reagent capable of introducing a Y group, and reacting the thus-obtained compound of the general formula (VIII) with an amine of the general formula (V).